

**Claims**

1. Appliance comprising an IC card reader (3) and a power supply (4, T2) for providing a supply voltage (VCC),  
5 **characterized in that** the appliance comprises an overload protection circuit (6, D1), which simulates an IC card extraction in case of an overload of the supply voltage (VCC).
- 10 2. Appliance according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the IC card reader (3) comprises a card presence switch (2), and that in case of an overload of a the supply voltage (VCC), the overload protection circuit (6, D1) changes a card detected signal (CARD-DET) from positive  
15 to negative for simulating an IC card extraction.
3. Appliance according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the overload protection circuit (6, D1) is coupled to the card presence switch (2) and to the supply voltage  
20 (VCC) for a detection of an overload of the supply voltage (VCC).
4. Appliance according to claim 3, **characterized in that** the overload protection circuit (6, D1) comprises a  
25 diode (D1), a comparator or a switch, being arranged for detecting a voltage breakdown of the supply voltage (VCC).
5. Appliance according to one of the preceding claims,  
30 **characterized in that** to inputs of a switching means (IC3) a card detected signal (CARD-DET) and a supply voltage "ON/OFF" command (CMD-VCC) provided by a micro-controller (5) is coupled, for switching on the power supply (4, T2) only, when the card detected signal  
35 (CARD-DET) is positive.
6. Appliance according to claim 5, **characterized in that** the switching means (IC3) is a logic circuit gate, for

example a NAND or an AND circuit, or a buffer/line driver circuit with an output enable input.

7. Appliance according to claim 1, 5 or 6, **characterized**  
5 **in that** that the overload protection circuit (6) is arranged within the power supply circuit (4), which provides an error signal in case of an overload, and that in case of an overload of the respective supply voltage (VCC), the error signal changes via a logic  
10 circuit a card detected signal (CARD-DET) from positive to negative for simulating an IC card extraction.
8. Appliance according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the supply voltage (VCC) is a  
15 supply voltage for the IC card reader (3), in particular for an IC card contact (C1).
9. Appliance according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the appliance is a digital set-  
20 top box or a digital satellite receiver with a respective IC card reader.